

From: Rod Ford
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/4/01 12:04am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I believe the recent settlement agreement with Microsoft and the DOJ is one that does not punish Microsoft for it's illegal actions, but rather rewards them. This settlement allows Microsoft to place its products into the local school systems where it currently does not exercise a monopoly. But this settlement will now give them a monopoly where once Apple and Open Source software could compete for desktop space.

I am further appalled at the language of the settlement that finds no wrong-doing by Microsoft. This language seems to ignore the monopoly and strong-arm tactics evident in this case. In my opinion the DOJ should come down much stronger against Microsoft, forcing the company to publish the source code for its operating systems, as well as:

- * adhere to standards established by the W3C organization in the development of browser technology.
- * integrate all browsers within the operating system
- * provide consumers with some type of refund for exaggerated software costs
- * provide businesses with a similar refund
- * submit to review of all contracts with 3rd party developers, hardware manufacturers, etc.

The DOJ should also take a serious look at the proposal by Red Hat at http://www.redhat.com/about/presscenter/2001/press_usschools.html. This proposal allows Microsoft to be punished financially while providing more equipment for schools. It also allows no one company to begin a monopoly in the school system, where people begin their computer experiences and become consumers of the future.

Rod Ford
Florence, Ky
859-371-7417